

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE FAQs

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

1. What are the titles of the new qualifications for Early Years, replacing 4227-03?

- **3605-03** Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (Early Years Educator) – work- based learning with defined work-placement requirement
- **3605-30** Level 3 Technical Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (Early Years Educator) (VRQ) – 2 year full-time delivery with work-placement requirement.

For more information and to access the QAN please use the following link: [3605 webpage](#)

2. When do these new qualifications open for registrations?

The qualifications have been accredited by Ofqual and they are fully mapped to the National College of Teaching & Learning (NCTL) Early Years Educator full & relevant criteria .They have been endorsed as fit for purpose by NCTL. These qualifications will replace the current the Level 3 Children & Young People’s Workforce (CYPW), Early Years, 4227-03 from 1 September 2014. Centres will be able to register candidates from then.

3. If these qualifications are replacing 4227-03 as the Early Years pathway what is happening to the other current pathways 4227-04, 4227-05?

It is expected at this stage that Level 3 Diploma CYPW 4227-04 (Social Care) & 4227-05 (Learning & Development Support Services) pathways will be extended until 2016. We are currently waiting for confirmation of this from Skills for Care & Development but a project group to look at the Social Care pathway has already been set up by DfE. We will publish information on this as soon as possible but is expected that a revised qualification to replace 4227-04 will be available in early 2015.

4. How will these new qualifications fit within Apprenticeship Frameworks?

Childcare has now joined phase 2 of Trailblazers with new Apprenticeship Standards It is expected that only approved and endorsed Early Years Educator Level 3 qualifications will be included in the new Apprenticeship standard.

The current framework will be extended as an interim measure and we await confirmation of details from Skills for Care & Development. For more information please follow the link to the Skills for Care and Development website: [Skills for Care](#)

The current CYPW (Early Years) qualification 4227-03 will not be funded by the Skills Funding Agency beyond 1 August 2014.

[Department for Education-Early Years Educators](#)

5. **What is the age range of these new qualifications?**

Age range gives full focus to Early Years with both qualifications requiring competency assessment 0-5yrs & knowledge 0-7yrs.

6. **How do these new qualifications sit within UCAS?**

We are in the process of applying for UCAS points for the Level 3 Technical Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (Early Years Educator) (VRQ). The outcome of the Trailblazer activity will influence any decision to seek UCAS for the Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (Early Years Educator).

7. **What are the requirements for any learner prior to registering for these new Early Years Educator qualifications?**

City & Guilds has not set any entry criteria for our Early Years Educator qualifications however the following requirements have recently been announced by the NCTL, the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency:

- *From 1 August 2014 Government funding of Early Years Educator training courses through the **Skills Funding Agency** will require GCSE English and Maths, at grade C or above, on entry. Training providers will be required to confirm learner's prior achievement of GCSE Grade A*-C in both English/English Language and Maths and record this in the Learning Agreement **before** enrolling learners on to Early Years Educator training*
- *The Early Years Foundation Stage will be amended to make clear that to count in the existing staff: child ratios at level 3, staff holding a new Early Years Educator qualification must also have achieved GCSEs in English/English Language and Maths, at grade C or above*
- *Functional Skills will not be accepted as equivalents to GCSEs*
- *Learners aged 16-19 (and learners aged 19-24 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) funded by the **Education Funding Agency** will not require GCSE English and Maths grade A* - C prior to commencing their Early Years Educator qualification. However, the Department for Education expect learners without English and/or Maths GCSE at grade C to be offered and encouraged to take up GCSEs as part of their Study Programme*
- *From 2016/17 learners will need to have completed or be studying GCSE English and Maths to have their study programme funded.*
- *Learners who self-fund their learning will not be required to have achieved GCSE English and maths grade A* - C before commencing their Early Years Educator qualification. However following the amendments to the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements all practitioners holding an Early Years Educator qualification **must** also have attained GCSE Maths and English grade A*-C before they can be counted into ratios*

8. **How do these new qualifications affect current Level 3 qualified practitioners?**

At this stage guidance received is that current Level 3 qualified staff (CCLD or CYPW) will still be recognised within regulatory frameworks.

9. **How can centres gain approval for delivery of these new qualifications?**

Centre approval for 3605-03 will be via enhanced fast track approval for centres currently approved for 4227-03. Centres currently approved will have to submit CVs to show staff competencies against

the new qualification structure & it is expected that an EQA activity will be implemented 3-4 months after approval to provide support for quality delivery. City & Guilds aim to make the process as smooth as possible whilst focusing on quality and the broader areas covered in the new qualification's' content.

It is expected that 3605-30 will require full qualification approval process via a QAP.

10. What is the impact on the Qualifications Consultant's role relevant to quality assurance of these new Early Years Educator qualifications?

To reflect the significant depth & breadth of Early Years expertise within units in both Qualifications City & Guilds will be carrying out a skills scan of current Qualification Consultants' competencies to ensure that Early Years expertise is identified & reinforced.

11. How can Qualification Consultants and/or centre staff update their knowledge of new aspects within these qualifications?

CPD events for key areas such as Neurological development and Systematic Synthetic Phonics will be made available from June 2014. The dates, venues and costs of these events can be accessed from the Events Pages of the City & Guilds website.

12. Is there a minimum amount of assessor and/or child observations required to complete the qualifications?

Yes following consultation with the sector and drawing on feedback received from centres delivering legacy childcare qualifications we have incorporated the following assessment requirements relating to assessor and child observations:

- Assessor observation of practice – a minimum of six direct observation visits must occur within the learners work setting/placement throughout the duration of the qualification. If a learner is working in multiple placements at least 1 observation must occur in each placement. NB this may mean that the learner is observed more than the minimum six occasions.
- Child observations and assessments – the learner should be supported to conduct numerous child observations and assessments throughout the duration of their qualification and in line with best practice guidelines. For assessment purposes the learner should select a minimum of four observations, demonstrating skill across at least three different observation methods and addressing all areas of development (as per the relevant unit range statements). More than one developmental area can be included within a single observation.

3605-03 LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA FOR THE EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER (EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR).

1. What resources are City & Guilds developing for this qualification?

Smartscreen resources will be available from September 2014. It is envisaged that a textbook will be available from early 2015.

2. What is the assessment for this qualification?

The focus is on applied theory in practice, on evidence-based practice, with assessor observation still a strong theme. Learner reflection is actively promoted & the Skills for Care and Development assessment principles for the Children and Young People's Workforce been incorporated into the new qualification to maintain focus on occupational competence.

3. **What are the requirements for staff within centres for this qualification?**
Assessor, Internal Quality Assurer and External Quality Assurer requirements reflect previous expectations with additional information to follow. All staff should recognise the importance of unit content with there being some marked differences in some units which may require staff to update their knowledge & competencies.
4. **What are the work-placement requirements for this qualification?**
Learners are expected to be employed with at least 730hrs of work placement time required through the lifetime of their qualification
5. **Are there any other key changes within this qualification regarding delivery?**
Employer participation is a key theme of the new qualification.
6. **What is the unit content of this qualification?**
17 mandatory units (356 GLH).
7. **Are there any optional units in this qualification?**
There are no optional units but there are “elective” units available that will provide excellent CPD opportunities. These are **not** a formal requirement of the qualification but the learner can elect to take these units.
8. **Will there be any City & Guilds devised assignments in this qualification?**
4 mandatory, graded knowledge assignments internally set/graded & externally moderated (as per the current assignment process).
9. **Are there any other new assessment approaches for this qualification?**
There is a **mandatory** longitudinal case study – further structure guidance on requirements for this study will be provided.
10. **Do the units reflect the current Framework approach?**
This qualification sits on the Framework and therefore the units follow a similar format to current units in 4227-03. The handbook for this new qualification shows “range” within units. At present **all** range needs to be assessed. However, depending on feedback received from centres, learners and Qualification Consultants, this might be adapted for more challenging range requirements.
11. **Are there any other formal requirements for delivery of this qualification?**
There is a recommendation that during achievement of the qualification learners have access to working with children across the age range & where possible across different types of provision within the Early Years sector.

LEVEL 3 TECHNICAL DIPLOMA FOR THE EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER (EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR)

- 1 **What is the main difference from the 3605-30 qualification?**
This “Technical Diploma” recognises & fits with City & Guilds “TechBac®” which is compatible with the government Techbac measure.
- 2 **Who are the likely learners for this qualification?**
As a 2 year programme of delivery, which sits on National Qualifications Framework, the qualification is aimed at but **not** exclusive to full-time provision with specified work-placement time.

- 3 **What is the unit content of this qualification?**
9 units each with 60 GLH.
- 4 **What is the required work-placement time?**
730hrs assessed work placement time.
- 5 **What is the assessment approach for this qualification?**
Assessment is through end of Year 1 assignments & end of Year 2 end test.
- 6 **Are there any other assessment requirements?**
There is a **mandatory** longitudinal case study – further structure guidance on requirements for this study will be provided.

Current provisions for the Children and Young People's Workforce and Children's Care, Learning and Development:

The intention is to extend the current provisions, apart from the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce 4227-03 which will close on 31 August 2014.

4227-01 Level 1 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce (England):

Paediatric first aid units to be removed from 01 September 2014. The Paediatric first aid units will not be replaced by updated units and the end date for this qualification will be extended to 31 December 2016.

Rules of combination from 01 September 2014 will be:

35 credits in total, 29 from the mandatory group, 6 from the optional group.

4227-02 Level 2 Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development: this qualification will be extended to 31 December 2016.

4227-03 Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce (Early Years): this qualification will close on 31 August 2014

4227-04 Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce: Social Care Pathway (England): this qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016 but the working group set up by DfE are in the process of deciding timelines for a revised qualification. It is expected that a revised qualification will be available in early 2015.

4227-05 Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce: Learning and Development Support Services (LDSS) Pathway (England): this qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016.

4227-06 Level 3 Diploma for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Wales & Northern Ireland): This qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016.

4227-07: Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Advanced Practice) (Wales and Northern Ireland): this qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016

4227-08: Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Management) (Wales and Northern Ireland): this qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016

4227-11: Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for the Children and Young People's Workforce - Early Years (Management): this qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016 (subject to further discussion).

4227-12: Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for the Children and Young People's Workforce - Early Years (Advanced Practice): this qualification will be extended to 31.12.2016 (subject to further discussion).